(c) The Archaeological Survey of India's primary responsibility is to protect and conserve the protected monuments and sites. However tourist facilities like drinking water, toilets etc. have been provided in some of the monuments.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India endeavours to provide maintenance and repairs to all its protected monuments within the available man-power and financial resources.

Development of Baldevjiu Temple in Orissa

191. SHRIRAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for financial assistance has been received by Government for proper maintenance of 16th century Baldevjiu Temple in Keonjhar District in Orissa;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on the request; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide adequate funds for maintenance of the temple and to develop it as a pilgrimage keeping in view arrival of lakhs of pilgrims to the temple from all over the country?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The temple is protected by the State Government, who are responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. The Archaeological Survey of India does not, as a norm, provide assistance to state Protected Monuments.

Maintenance of World Heritage Sites by Corporate Houses

192. PROF. (SHRTMATi) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India has adopted a Corporate House like the Tatas to maintain the Taj Mahal;

(b) whether any other country all over the world has adopted its Corporate Houses for handling their World Heritage site;

(c) whether it has sent a wrong message that ASI cannot conserve and protect the Taj; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to solve the various inherent difficulties before adoption of Tata by ASI?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) The Indian Hotels Company Limited have signed an MoU with the national Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India to provide financial assistance towards conservation, environmental development and improvement of tourist related amenities at the Taj Mahal, Agra.

(b) Government are not aware of specific arrangements of other countries in this regard.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The National Culture Fund set-up by Government of India envisages that individual companies and corporate entities can contribute towards assisting the Archaeological Survey of India in structural conservation and in providing amenities around the monuments.

All conservation measures identified under the MoU will be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India alone.

The activity involved in adoption of monument/site does not compromise the historic integrity of the site/monuments in any manner.

Non-Scientific methods of Conservation of ASI

193. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our conservation methods are antiquated and non-scientific;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Archaeological Survey of India cannot adhere to the golden rules of conservation which states to originality of structure;

(c) if so, the reasons for failure on both the counts; and

(d) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTCROFTOURISMAND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India has adhered to time-tested methods of conservation. While conserving, its primary concern is to ensure the originality of the form and fabric of the structure, consistent with the stability and safety of the monument concerned.